

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9275

UNCLAS MADRID 1800

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SP, US

SUBJECT: NEWSPAPER CLAIMS USG HAS REJECTED SPANISH PROPOSAL FOR  
MARCH VISIT TO U.S. OF PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ

1. UNDER THE HEADLINE "CARTER DOESN'T WANT TO SEE SUAREZ  
BEFORE THE ELECTIONS", AND SUB-HEADLINE THAT USG CONCERNED  
VISIT MIGHT INFLUENCE SPANISH ELECTIONS, THE ATERNOON DIARIO  
16 REPORTED MARCH 9 "THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS REJECTED THE  
END-OF-MARCH DATE PROPOSED BY THE SPANISH GOVT FOR THE TRIP  
OF PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ TO THE U.S. AND HAS SUGGESTED  
THAT HE VISIT WASHINGTON IN THE MONTHS OF JUNE OR JULY,  
ACCORDING TO WHAT AMERICAN SOURCES REVEALED YESTERDAY."

2. CLAIMING THAT THE LACK OF AGREEMENT ON A DATE  
BEFORE THE ELECTIONS "HAS ABORTED THE GIGANTIC PUBLIC  
RELATIONS OPERATION" WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE  
HAD PLANNED WITH AN EYE ON THE UPCOMING SPANISH ELECTIONS,  
THE DIARIO ARTICLE, FILED FROM WASHINGTON BY ITS CORRE-  
SPONDENT ALBERTO VALVERDE, QUOTED A DEPT SPOKESMAN AS  
CONFIRMING THAT "PLANS EXIST" FOR A SUAREZ VISIT BUT THAT  
"IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO DO IT WHILE SECRETARY VANCE  
IS OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY." THE ARTICLE SAYS THE SECRETARY  
WILL LEAVE FOR MOSCOW MARCH 27 ON A TOUR TO INCLUDE "FOUR  
OR FIVE EUROPEAN CAPITALS, POSSIBLY INCLUDING MADRID."

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3. THE ARTICLE SAID AMERICAN SOURCES INDICATED THE IDEA  
OF SUCH A VISIT ORIGINALLY AROSE DURING THE FEBRUARY VISIT  
TO WASHINGTON OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OSORIO, THE STORY  
CITED "WASHINGTON" (SPANISH?) SOURCES IN REPORTING THAT  
THE GOS WAS "PARTICULARLY INTERESTED" THAT THE MEETING BE  
HELD BEFORE THE SPANISH ELECTIONS IN ORDER TO PRESENT IT

WITHIN SPAIN AS "A SUPPORT AND AN ENDORSEMENT OF THE NEW DEMOCRATIC AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION FOR SUAREZ IN THE LAST PHASE OF THE REFORM."

4. THE DIARIO ARTICLE WENT ON TO QUOTE SPANISH SOURCES AS SUGGESTING PRESIDENT CARTER'S OWN HEAVY SCHEDULE OF VISITS MIGHT BE RELATED TO THE USG POSITION, DESPITE "THE POLITICAL COST WHICH THE CANCELLATION OF ALL THE PREPARATIONS INITIATED BY THE SUAREZ GOVT COULD HAVE IN SPAIN," AND ADDED THAT SUAREZ MIGHT HAVE TO CANCEL THE U.S. TRIP BECAUSE OF UNCERTAINTY OVER WHAT CHANGES THE SPANISH ELECTIONS COULD BRING ABOUT.

5. "IN ANY CASE," SAID DIARIO, "THE MATTER OF THE TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES OF PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ, DELIBERATELY LEAKED IN MADRID AND WASHINGTON BY WHAT COULD BE CALLED DIPLOMATIC SOURCES, THREATENS TO BECOME A FIASCO THROUGH LACK OF COORDINATION, ALTHOUGH IT COULD ALSO BE INTERPRETED AS A DELIBERATE MOVE BY PRESIDENT CARTER NOT TO INVOLVE HIMSELF PUBLICLY IN THE ELECTORAL GAME UNDER WAY IN SPAIN."

6. "FOR THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S PART", THE ARTICLE CONTINUE,"THE VISIT OF SUAREZ TO WASHINGTON BEFORE THE ELECTIONS OFFERED THE RISK THAT IT WOULD BE INTERPRETED AS THE DIRECT AND EXCLUSIVE ENDORSEMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF WHATEVER ELECTORAL ALTERNATIVE THE SPANISH PRIME MINISTER MIGHT CHOOSE." THE ARTICLE CONCLUDED WITH A REFERENCE TO THE POSSIBLE OBJECTION TO AN APPARENT USG ENDORSEMENT OF SUAREZ BY "PARTIES OR POLITICAL PERSONALITIES UNCLASSIFIED

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IDEOLOGICALLY RELATED TO WASHINGTON" (AN UNMISTAKABLE INNUENDO ABOUT THE FRAGA-LED ALIANZA POPULAR), AND THE POSSIBLE COST TO "THE FUTURE OF AMERICAN POLICY IN SPAIN (OF) A POSSIBLE ELECTORAL FAILURE OF SUAREZ." EATON

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## Message Attributes

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